In the Claims

Claims 1-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a medical device coated with a composition, the method comprising the steps of providing a composition comprising a bioactive agent in combination with a plurality of hydrophobic polymers, including a first polymer component comprising at least one poly(alkyl)(meth)acrylate having alkyl chain lengths from 2 to 8 carbons and a second polymer component comprising poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate) having vinyl acetate concentrations of between about 10% and about 50% by weight, in a manner that permits the coated surface to release the bioactive agent over time when implanted *in vivo*, ~~the composition, the method comprising the steps of providing~~ and applying the composition to the medical device.

32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31 wherein the coating is provided by dipping or spraying the device with the composition.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32 wherein the coating composition includes a solvent and the coating upon the device is cured by evaporation of the solvent.

34. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31 wherein the device is one that undergoes flexion and/or expansion in the course of implantation or use *in vivo*.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~35~~ 31 wherein the composition comprises a mixture of poly(n-butylmethacrylate) and poly(ethylene-*co*-vinyl acetate).

37. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~35~~ 31 wherein the total combined concentrations of both polymers in the coating composition is between about 0.25% and about 70% by weight.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 37 wherein the bioactive agent is dissolved or suspended in the coating mixture at a concentration of 0.01% to 90% by weight.

39. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31 wherein the weight of the coating attributable to the bioactive agent is in the range of about 0.05 mg to about 10 mg of bioactive agent per cm^2 of the gross surface area of the device.

40. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 39 wherein the weight of the coating attributable to the bioactive agent is between about 1 mg and about 5 mg of bioactive agent per cm^2 of the gross surface area of the device, and the coating thickness of the composition is in the range of about 5 micrometers to about 100 micrometers.

41-50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31 wherein the medical device comprises an implantable medical device fabricated from metal or polymeric materials.

52. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 51 wherein the device is selected from catheters and stents.

53. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 51 wherein the medical device comprises a catheter selected from the group consisting of urinary catheters and intravenous catheters.

54. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 53 wherein the catheter comprises a urinary catheter and the bioactive agent comprises an antimicrobial agent.

55. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 53 wherein the catheter comprises an intravenous catheter and the bioactive agent comprises an antimicrobial or antithrombotic agent.

56. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 53 wherein the catheter is fabricated from a group comprising silicone rubber, polyurethane, latex and polyvinylchloride.

57. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 52 wherein the device comprises a stent selected from the group consisting of self-expanding stents and balloon expandable stents.

58. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 57 wherein the stent comprises a material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel and tantalum.

59-60. (Canceled)

61. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~59~~ 31 wherein the composition permits the amount and rate of release of agent(s) from the medical device to be controlled by adjusting the relative types and/or concentrations of polymers in the mixture.

62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~59~~ 31 wherein the vinyl acetate concentrations are between about 24% and about 36% by weight.

64. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 63 wherein the vinyl acetate concentrations are between about 30% and about 34% by weight.

65-66. (Canceled)

67. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~59~~ 31 wherein the composition further comprises a solvent in which the polymers form a true solution.

68. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~59~~ 31 wherein the bioactive agent is dissolved or suspended in the coating mixture at a concentration of 0.01% to 90% by weight.

69. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 68 wherein the bioactive agent is selected from the group consisting of thrombin inhibitors, antithrombogenic agents, thrombolytic agents, fibrinolytic agents, vasospasm inhibitors, calcium channel blockers, vasodilators, antihypertensive agents, antimicrobial agents, antibiotics, inhibitors of surface glycoprotein receptors, antiplatelet agents, antimitotics, microtubule inhibitors, anti secretory agents, actin inhibitors, remodeling inhibitors, antisense nucleotides, anti metabolites, antiproliferatives, anticancer chemotherapeutic agents, anti-inflammatory steroid or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, immunosuppressive agents, growth hormone antagonists, growth factors, dopamine agonists, radiotherapeutic agents, peptides, proteins, enzymes, extracellular matrix components, inhibitors, free radical scavengers, chelators, antioxidants, anti polymerases, antiviral agents, photodynamic therapy agents, and gene therapy agents.

70. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 69 wherein the vinyl acetate concentrations are between about 24% and about 36% by weight and the total combined concentrations of both polymers in the coating composition is between about 0.25% and about 70% by weight.

71. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 70 wherein the medical device comprises an implantable medical device fabricated from metal or polymeric materials.

72. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 71 wherein the device is selected from catheters and stents.

73. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 72 wherein the medical device comprises a catheter selected from the group consisting of urinary catheters and intravenous catheters.

74. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 73 wherein the catheter comprises a urinary catheter and the bioactive agent comprises an antimicrobial agent.

75. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 73 wherein the catheter comprises an intravenous catheter and the bioactive agent comprises an antimicrobial or antithrombotic agent.

76. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 73 wherein the catheter is fabricated from a group comprising silicone rubber, polyurethane, latex and polyvinylchloride.

77. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 72 wherein the device comprises a stent selected from the group consisting of self-expanding stents and balloon expandable stents.

78. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 77 wherein the stent comprises a material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel and tantalum.